

Remarks:

Applicant has read and considered the Office Action dated May 29, 2009 and the references cited therein. Claims 1, 6 and 9 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2-5, 7 and 8 are currently pending. Reconsideration is hereby requested.

In the Action, claims 1, 6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by British Patent No. 2031378 to Hogerhuis. Applicant disagrees with the rejection. However, solely in order to speed the advancement of the application to allowance, claims 1, 6 and 9 have cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant asserts that the rejection is therefore moot and should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-5, 7 and 8 were allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of these claims. As all of the pending claims have been allowed, Applicant asserts that the application is in condition for allowance.

A speedy and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is hereby solicited. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview may be helpful in this matter, please contact Applicant's representative at (612) 336-4728.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/525,866
Reply to Office Action dated May 29, 2009

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.



Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

Dated: 8/31/01

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